WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Conductive metal particles having a number average particle diameter of 5 to 100 μm, a BET specific surface area of 0.01×10^3 to 0.7×10^3 m^2/kg, a sulfur element content of at most 0.1% by mass, an oxygen element content of at most 0.5% by mass and a carbon element content of at most 0.1% by mass.

2. The conductive metal particles according to Claim 1, wherein the coefficient of variation of the particle diameter is at most 50%.

3. The conductive metal particles according to Claim 1, wherein the saturation magnetization of the particles is at least 0.1 Wb/m^2.

4. Conductive composite metal particles obtained by coating the surfaces of the conductive metal particles according to Claim 1 with a high-conductive metal.

5. The conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 4, wherein the thickness t of the coating layer of the high-conductive metal, which is calculated out in accordance with the following numerical expression, is at least 10 nm:

$$t = [1/(Sw \cdot \rho)] \times [N/(1 - N)]$$

wherein t is the thickness (nm) of the coating layer of the high-conductive metal, Sw is the BET specific surface area (m^2/kg) of the conductive metal particles, ρ is a specific gravity (kg/m^3) of the high-conductive metal, and N is a ratio of a weight of the coating layer of the high-conductive metal to a weight of the conductive composite metal particles.

6. The conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 5, wherein the high-conductive metal is gold.

7. The conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 5, wherein the content of the high-conductive metal in each surface layer portion of the conductive composite metal particles is at least 50% by mass.

8. The conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 5, wherein the BET specific surface area of the conductive composite metal particles is 0.01 x 10^3 to 0.7 x 10^3 m^2/kg.

9. The conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 8, wherein the composite metal particles are obtained by coating the surfaces of the

conductive metal particles whose saturation magnetization is at least 0.1 Wb/m^2 with the high-conductive metal, and the electric resistance value R as measured in the following manner is at most 1 Ω:

Electric resistance value:

A paste composition is prepared by kneading 0.6 g of the conductive composite metal particles with 0.8 g of liquid rubber, the paste composition is arranged between a pair of electrodes each having a diameter of 1 mm and arranged so as to be opposed to each other at a clearance of 0.5 mm, a magnetic field of 0.3 T is applied to this pair of electrodes, and the pair of electrodes are left to stand in this state until the electric resistance value between the pair of electrodes is stabilized, thereby measuring an electric resistance value at this time.

10. A conductive paste composition comprising the conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 3 or 9.

11. A conductive sheet comprising the conductive composite metal particles according to Claim 3 or 9 in an organic polymeric substance.

12. A circuit board comprising a conductor containing the conductive composite metal particles

according to Claim 3 or 9 in an organic polymeric substance.

13. A conductive connection structure connected by a connecting member formed by the conductive paste composition according to Claim 10.

14. A conductive connection structure connected through the conductive sheet according to Claim 11.

15. An electrical inspection apparatus for circuit devices, comprising the conductive sheet according to Claim 11, wherein electrical connection to electrodes to be inspected of a circuit device to be inspected is achieved through the conductive sheet.